

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-34 without prejudice to continued prosecution.

35. (Original) A composition, said composition comprising:

an active fraction of a *Cimicifuga* extract and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said active fraction reduces the level of an A β polypeptide upon contact with a cell producing said A β polypeptide.

36. (Original) An article of manufacture, said article comprising:

an active fraction of a *Cimicifuga* extract, wherein said active fraction reduces the level of an A β polypeptide upon contact with a cell producing said A β polypeptide;

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier; and

packaging material, wherein said packaging material contains a label or package insert indicating that said composition is effective for reducing the level of an A β polypeptide